

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed March 10, 2005. Claims 1-4, 7-18 and 20-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 20 are rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action of all pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Previous Election/Restriction

Dependent Claims 3, 11 and 12 were previously withdrawn, but now depend from an allowable generic independent Claim 1 and therefore may be placed back into the application. Applicants have added new Claims 26, 27, and 28 adding the additional limitation of Claims 3, 11, and 12, respectively, to amended Claim 1 to effect their inclusion back into the application (thus, Claims 3, 11, and 12 should remain withdrawn). Applicants note that the additional limitation of each of these claims has been written in a manner that Applicants believe would not be subject to the Section 112, Paragraph 2 rejection of Paragraph 6 of the Office Action. Favorable action is requested.

Section 112 Rejections

Applicants have amended Claims 2, 4 and 20 to address the Section 112, Paragraph 2 rejections of Paragraph 6 of the Office Action. It is noted that new Claims 25 and 29, which correspond to Claims 2 and 4, respectively, before the current amendment to Claim 1, have also been written in a manner that would not be subject to the Section 112, Paragraph 2 rejection of Paragraph 6 of the Office Action. Favorable action is requested.

Section 102 Rejections

The rewriting of Claim 7, which was indicated in the Office Action as being allowed, as Claim 1 renders moot the rejection of Claim 1. Favorable action is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication at Paragraph 10 of the Office Action that "Claims 7-10, 13-18, 21, and 22 are allowed." Because Claim 1 had been rejected, but Claims 7-10 and 13-16 had not, and because these claims depend from Claim 1, Applicants believe the Examiner intended to indicate that Claims 17-18, 21, and 22 are allowed, and that Claims 7-10 and 13-16 are allowable subject to being rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the additional limitations of Claim 7, and thus Claim 1 is now allowable, as are the claims depending therefrom. Favorable action is requested.

Applicants also appreciate the indication that Claims 2, 4, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the Section 112, Paragraph 2 rejection. Applicants have done so as new Claims 25 and 29 and as Claim 20, respectively. Favorable action is requested.

CONCLUSION

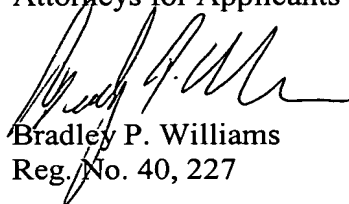
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present Application may be advanced in any way by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 214-953-6447.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants



Bradley P. Williams
Reg. No. 40, 227

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Correspondence Address:

Customer Number: **45507**